

Custer County Sheriff's Office

Miles City, Montana

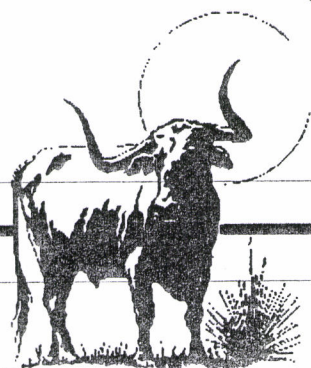
EXHIBIT 1

DATE Jan. 29, 2015

HB 33

1010 Main

Tony Harbaugh, Sheriff Pat Roos, Undersheriff



Custer County

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Fax 406-874-3444

Miles City, Montana 59301

June 19, 2014

Children, Health and Human Services Interim Committee
Montana Legislature
Capitol Station
Helena, MT 59620

Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for your consideration of positive remedies for community mental health in Montana. I understand you have made some preliminary recommendations regarding crisis services. It is my intention to reinforce the need and to urge you to continue down the path you have taken.

In eastern Montana we are in desperate need of the kinds of services you have been discussing. Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin and Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman are so grateful for the crisis services in their counties. Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Leo Dutton anxiously awaits the day when the crisis program in his county will be operational. I know that they happened because those communities recognized the need, came together as communities to make it happen, and were able to avail themselves of funds that were appropriated by the Montana Legislature to close the loop.

I respectfully request that you recommend additional crisis funds for more communities like mine so that we might better serve our eastern Montana residents. With the distance that we face in transporting these patients to the state hospital in Warm Springs for treatment, it is critical that we try to find ways to serve them in our own communities and find ways for them to regain their health at home.

I pledge my involvement on this end to help make it happen.

Thank you in advance for your continue support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Harbaugh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

TONY HARBAUGH
Custer County Sheriff